JOHN C. MCKEOWN

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER PROGRAM

A Pennsylvania native, Mr. McKeown earned his bachelor's degree in Aero-Space Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and holds graduate degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University.

Mr. McKeown began his professional career at Sikorsky Aircraft, where he served on new product design teams and was responsible for flight control and structural design for military and commercial helicopters, as well as development of computer simulations and computer-aided design methods.

Mr. McKeown entered public service at the Naval Weapons Laboratory as supervisor, Aircraft Systems Section. His responsibilities included weapon systems integration, airborne fire control, and systems software evaluation.

Joining the Naval Air Systems Command, McKeown was test, evaluation, and reliability officer for the CONDOR standoff weapons system. Assigned as deputy project manager for H-53 helicopters, he managed H-53 modernization and CH-53E development programs; after that, he was the deputy project manager for Airborne Mine Countermeasures Helicopters, including RH-53 fleet support and MH-53E full-scale development.

Mr. McKeown then joined the Department of Research and Information at the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) as Professor of Acquisition/Program Management. He managed contracts, taught systems management courses, consulted for government agencies and program managers, and coordinated government workshops.

On returning to the Naval Air Systems Command, Mr. McKeown assumed the position of Head, Flight Controls Branch. He was responsible for flight control engineering research and development through fleet support for electronic, electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical systems.

Mr. McKeown then became Head of the Acquisition Plans, Programs and Policy Branch, where he led aggressive efforts to expand the competitive supplier base for flight-critical spare parts procurement and reduce the costs of personal accommodation equipment. He also headed the Specifications, Standards and Data, and the Land-based Aircraft Branches.

Selected for promotion to the Senior Executive Service, and appointed as Technical Director of the Air Vehicle Division, Mr. McKeown was responsible for the airworthiness, design, development and qualification of all Navy aircraft. This included engineering disciplines of aerodynamics, flight controls, materials, structures, and mechanical systems.

As Director, Systems Engineering, Mr. McKeown oversaw the conversion of mission needs into technical requirements for all air vehicles and weapons in Navy's unique operating environment, through an integrated, balanced engineering effort which addressed cost, schedule and performance objectives across the entire aircraft life cycle.

Mr. McKeown is now Technical Director for the Joint Strike Fighter Program in Arlington, Virginia. This multi-billion dollar joint-service program will develop and produce the next generation strike warfare weapon system for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, and for other countries under partnership and foreign military sales plans. The focus of the program is on affordability ~ reducing development, production, and ownership costs for the JSF family of aircraft.

McKeown has completed graduate courses in digital control systems, holds two patents for flight control design, and was a private pilot.

He served on the Congressional Aeronautics Advisory Committee, and is a member of the American Helicopter Society in which he served on its Technical Council, and Handling Qualities, Scholarship, and Awards Committees. McKeown was an active participant in the National Rotorcraft Technology Center and a Board Member of the Rotorcraft Industry Technology Association. He was a member of the Government Steering Group of NDIA's Systems Engineering Division, and the Corporate Advisory Board of the International Council on Systems Engineering. He served on NASA's Shuttle Independent Assessment Team, The Institute For Defense Analysis' Comanche Independent Review Team, and the Navy's Shipbuilding Computer-Aided Design Assessment.

McKeown's professional recognition includes election as a Penn State Outstanding Engineering Alumnus, a NASA Group Achievement Award, Secretary of Defense Superior Management and Productivity Awards, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Vice-President's Reinventing Government ('Hammer') Award, a Presidential Rank Award, and an Aviation Week and Space Technology 'Laurel.'

EDUCATION

1965 Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering, Pennsylvania State University

1976 Master of Arts degree in Social Studies, University of Northern Colorado

1978 Master of Public Administration, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

1980 Executive Refresher Course, Defense Systems Management College

1993 Leadership For a Democratic Society, Federal Executive Institute

CAREER HISTORY

June 1965 – September 1972, Aerodynamicist, Sikorsky Aircraft

September 1972 – March 1975, Aircraft Systems Head, Naval Weapons Laboratory

March 1975 – November 1976, CONDOR Missile Reliability, T&E Engineer, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)

November 1976 – October 1979, CH/MH-53E Deputy Program Manager, NAVAIR

July 1977 – June 1978, Student, Kennedy School of Government

October 1979 – April 1982, Professor of Acquisition/Program Management, Defense Systems Management College

April 1982 – December 1984, Head, Flight Controls Section, NAVAIR

December 1984 – March 1986, Head, Acquisition, Plans & Policy Branch, NAVAIR

March 1986 – May 1988, Head, Specifications, Standards & Data Branch, NAVAIR

May 1988 – September 1988, Head, Land-Based Aircraft Branch, NAVAIR

September 1988 – May 1996, Technical Director, Air Vehicle Department, NAVAIR

May 1996 – July 2003, Director, Systems Engineering Department, NAVAIR

July 2003 – present, Technical Director, Joint Strike Fighter Program

MAJOR AWARDS

Naval Air System Command Commander's Award

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Defense Department Acquisition Excellence Award

Secretary of Defense Superior Management Award

Secretary of Defense Productivity Excellence Award

National Partnership For Reinventing Government (Hammer) Award

Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Group Achievement Award – Space Shuttle

Pennsylvania State University Outstanding Engineering Alumnus

Aviation Week and Space Technology 'Laurel'

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Congressional Aeronautics Advisory Committee
- NASA Aerospace Technology Advisory Committee
- Served on NASA's Shuttle Independent Assessment Team
- American Helicopter Society: Technical Council, and Handling Qualities, Scholarship and Awards Committees
- National Rotorcraft Technology Center (Board member)
- Rotorcraft Industry Technology Association (Board member)
- Government Steering Group of NDIA's Systems Engineering Division
- Corporate Advisory Board of the International Council on Systems Engineering
- Served on the Institute For Defense Analysis' Comanche Independent Review Team
- Served on the Navy's Shipbuilding Computer-Aided Design Assessment Team
- Pennsylvania State Engineering Society (Board member)